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<p>(54) Title: PARKING SYSTEM</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A vehicle parking system in which each parking place (1) incorporated in the system is assigned a unique digital and/or alphabetical code which is unique to that particular parking space, characterized in that the vehicle (2) is assigned a unique digital and/or alphabetical code; and in that when a vehicle is parked in one such parking space and when parking of the vehicle is terminated, the parking space code and vehicle code together with a unique code assigned to the vehicle driver are sent to a database (5) for registration of the parking space, the vehicle concerned and the parking period, and for determining the parking fee and the address to which the parking fee shall be debited, on the basis of the data received.</p>			

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Parking System

The present invention relates to a vehicle parking system in which each parking space - parking area, 5 parking square - is assigned a unique numerical and/or alphabetical code.

Pay parking spaces are found in all densely populated areas, without exception. Various systems are found in 10 which a given fee is paid for an intended parking period, this fee being deposited in cash into a parking meter located at each parking space, or into a central parking ticket dispenser which serves a vehicle parking area and which issues a parking ticket disclosing the 15 period for which a parking fee has been paid, this ticket being placed in the vehicle in a position where it can be seen from outside the vehicle. Such pay parking systems, however, are encumbered with a number of serious problems. For instance, administration costs and 20 investment costs are high, as is also the cost of maintenance resulting from malicious damage to the parking meters or ticket dispensers, including the theft of the coins contained therein, such damage requiring constant repair of the meters and dispensers. In order to prevent 25 the theft of the cash content of such parking machines, machines have been introduced with which parking fees are "paid" through the medium of pay cards. Such machines, however, assume that the vehicle owner is in possession of such a card, and also means that the 30 machines must be adapted to accept the majority of pay cards, credit cards, available to the public at large. There is also the risk that climatic conditions will cause such machines to malfunction and, of course, the machines may also be damaged.

The present invention provides a parking system which eliminates the drawbacks of those parking systems known hitherto and enables parking fees to be paid in a simple fashion without needing to pay cash on the occasion of parking the vehicle. The inventive parking system is also cheaper with regard to administration, investments and maintenance. This is achieved with an inventive parking system having the characteristic features set forth in the following Claims.

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The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to an inventive parking system illustrated schematically in the accompanying drawing.

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The drawing illustrates schematically a parking place 1 which has been assigned a numerical and/or alphabetical code which is unique to that particular parking space, for instance 1 2 3, and a vehicle 2 parked in said space. According to the invention, the vehicle is assigned a numerical and/or alphabetical code which is unique to that vehicle. For instance, the code may consist in the whole of the vehicle registration number or parts thereof, for instance A B C. In the illustrated embodiment, it is assumed that the vehicle is equipped with a vehicle telephone, as indicated by the transmitter 3. The driver of the parked vehicle shall be aware of or assigned a unique code which associates the vehicle directly with the one responsible for payment of the parking fee. This code may be 4 5 6, for instance.

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The system also utilizes existing base or relay stations, here referenced 4, and a computer centre or database 5.

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Having parked the vehicle in the parking space, the driver dials on his/her vehicle telephone - mobile

telephone - the code 1 2 3 unique to that parking space, the vehicle code A B C and a personal -or payment responsibility code 4 5 6. This code combination is sent via transmitter 3 and the base or relay station 4 to the 5 database 5, in which the time at which the information was received is recorded together with data information concerning the parking space used, the vehicle using the parking space and the person responsible for paying the parking fee. When the driver collects the 10 vehicle from the parking space, he/she again sends the combined code to the database 5, over the vehicle telephone, whereupon the database records that the parking period has been terminated. Data is processed and, for 15 instance, is converted to a form which denotes the place, time and cost of the parking period. According to the invention, this parking cost can be debited by a municipal telephone company, or through the National telephone company, through its normal debiting routines.

20 As an alternative to a vehicle telephone, it is conceivable to use a telephone located in the vicinity of the parking space, one such telephone being referenced 6 in the drawing, or the parking area can be equipped with a separate transmitter and keyboard for transmission of 25 the parking codes inserted through the keyboard by the person parking the vehicle (not shown). The parking area may be equipped with a separate telephone which is intended solely for vehicle parking purposes.

30 It is also conceivable to operate the inventive parking system with the aid of a separate code transmitter in the keeping of the person responsible for payment or the parking fee, this transmitter possibly being programmed with the vehicle code and the code of the responsible 35 person, such that solely the code of the parking space need be inserted when parking the vehicle.

The illustrated system may also be coupled to local computer centres 7, for instance so that a parking space can be booked and time checks and parking space follow-ups carried out.

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Vehicle parking and parking times can be supervised by a car park superintendent equipped with a portable computer 8 capable of displaying a graphic picture of the parking areas or spaces supervised. The car park superintendent is then able to check with the aid of the computer whether or not the vehicles parked have been registered in a local computer and database. The reference 9 identifies manual supervision in the form of computers which can be connected to the database 5 or a local computer centre 7. This manual supervision, or service, enables the person parking a vehicle to receive supplementary information, to pre-book a parking space and also to request an extension of the parking period when necessary.

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An existing vehicle register 10 can also be connected to the database 5, thereby providing the database with information concerning the model of vehicle, colour, etc., for checking the vehicle code - registration number.

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Although the inventive parking system has been described with reference to an exemplifying embodiment thereof, it will be understood that various modifications can be made within the scope of the invention. For instance, a parking space can be booked for a specific time or for an unspecified length of time, and it is possible for the driver of a parked vehicle to be called on his/her telephone at a given time prior to expiration of the parking period, to remind the driver that the parking period is about to expire or to extend the parking

period when necessary. Booking of a parking period can be confirmed, for instance, by a telephone voice or a digital display. The database 5 may consist of a computer which is central to the country concerned, to which the local computer centres 7 are connected for parking follow-ups, booking, time checks, and the parking fee can be paid, for instance, via the telephone bill, payment card, a separate parking card or in some other way, as before indicated.

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The inventive parking system renders the use of pay machines and parking meters obsolete, therewith saving costs. The inventive system also provides a convenience whereby the motorist can obtain automatically information concerning available parking spaces, among other things. The subscription fee for long-term parking and residential parking can be administered readily and differential parking fees in accordance with parking zones, payment of said fees, etc., can be readily achieved. The inventive system also provides for flexible use of existing parking areas.

The inventive parking system also enables parking to be effectively supervised, despite large parking areas being supervised with the aid of only a few superintendents. Superintendents equipped with portable computers obtain a comprehensive graphic view of the various parking areas. The parking superintendent also quickly receives information disclosing those parking spaces for which parking has not been paid. The parking system also enables differentiated parking fines to be issued, for instance the payment of an additional parking fee commensurate with to parking time in excess of the initially recorded time period.

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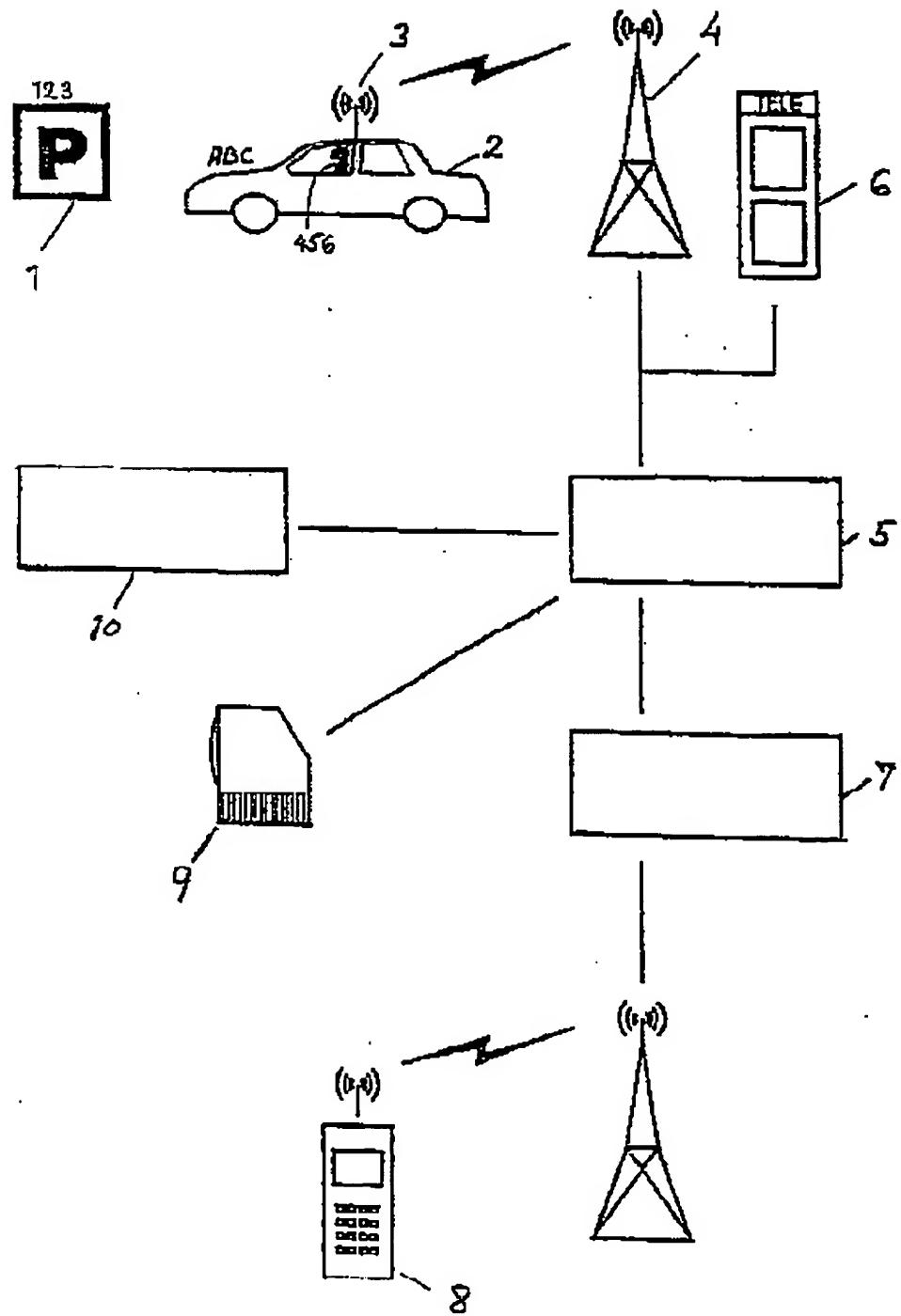
Computer integration enables the inventive system to be modified, improved and adapted constantly without further requirement for expensive investment.

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Claims

1. A vehicle parking system in which each parking place
(1) incorporated in the system is assigned a unique
5 digital and/or alphabetical code, characterized in that the vehicle (2) is assigned a unique digital and/or alphabetical code; and in that in conjunction with parking a vehicle in one such parking space and in conjunction with terminating a parking
10 period, the parking space code and vehicle code together with a unique code assigned to the vehicle driver are sent to a database (5) for registration of the parking space, vehicle and the parking period and for determining the parking fee and the address to which the parking
15 fee shall be debited, on the basis of the data received.
2. A parking system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the unique vehicle code is comprised of the vehicle registration characters or
20 parts of said characters.
3. A parking system according to any one of Claims 1-2, characterized in that the codes are transmitted by a cordless transmitter or by cable transmission.
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4. A parking system according to any one of Claims 1-2, characterized in that the codes are transmitted by telephone.
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5. A parking system according to any one of the preceding Claims, characterized in that the codes are transmitted by a transmitter which is programmed with the vehicle code and the code of the addressee.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 93/00243

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC5: G07C 1/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or in both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC5: G07C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE, DK, FI, NU classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPI, CLAIMS, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, Y	US, A, 4555618 (B.N. RISKIN), 26 November 1985 (26.11.85), column 4, line 21 - line 42	1-5
Y	EP, A, 0006079 (K.B.TREHN ET AL), 12 December 1979 (12.12.79), claim 1	1-5
A	WO, A, 8401073 (K. KATZEFF ET AL), 15 March 1984 (15.03.84), page 6, line 3 - page 9, line 4, claim 1	1-5

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Parent family member(s)		Publication date
US-A- 4555618	26/11/85	NONE		
EP-A- 0006079	12/12/79	AT-T- 3595 JP-A- 55018795 SE-B,C- 411600 US-A- 4310890		15/06/83 09/02/80 14/01/80 12/01/82
WO-A- 8401073	15/03/84	AU-A- 2030183 EP-A,B- 0138813		29/03/84 02/05/85